

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

The Agricultural Situation

A Brief Summary of



Economic Conditions

Issued Monthly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics
United States Department of Agriculture

Subscription price, 25 cents per year; single copy, 5 cents; foreign price, 45 cents; payable in cash or money order to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Washington, D. C.

February 1, 1936

Volume 20, No. 2

A BETTER WINTER FOR THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES

The farms have been in the grip of severe winter weather most of the past month. The entire North is blanketed with a fairly heavy cover of snow, which, although it has handicapped outdoor work, has benefited winter grains and meadows.

Winter wheat is generally reported to be in good condition except in portions of the southwestern plains territory where lack of snow or moisture has left the crop open to damage by cold weather and winds.

The general grain situation this winter is materially different from that of a year ago. Wheat supplies are sharply reduced. Corn and other coarse grains, on the other hand, are much more abundant. These shifts in supplies have been reflected in higher prices for wheat and lower prices for the feed grains. As a result of the short spring-wheat crop and the small carry-over from last season's harvest, the United States has been placed upon a net import basis for bread wheats for the first time in many years.

With respect to feed-grain supplies, however, the reduced numbers of livestock and the larger crops of grain have eased that situation, so that the imports which were coming in rather freely last season have become almost negligible.

The general story within the livestock industries is one of increasing production. The number of fall pigs in the Corn Belt is said to be about 40 percent more than a year ago. The reports as to intentions for spring farrowing indicate a 24-percent increase above last spring. While this would still leave next spring's pig crop somewhat below the 1932-33 average, it indicates the response of hog producers to the stronger market and easier feed situation.

There are reported to be about 41 percent more cattle on feed in the Corn Belt than last year, although this would not bring the number quite up to average. In the West, however, there are said to be around 78 percent more cattle on feed, which is about one-third more than average.

The number of lambs on feed last month in the principal feeding States was estimated at about 5 percent fewer than a year ago. The actual number (about 5,260,000 head), however, is still large enough to furnish a fairly good market supply of lamb.

Milk production is still rather low in most parts of the country. Dairy herds are being rather closely culled and appear to include less

than the usual proportion of heifers. The price of butter has now risen to a point where it is said that dairymen are again feeding nearly the usual quantity of grain.

INCOME PARITY FOR AGRICULTURE

IN THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION of February 1935 we presented certain data contrasting three measures of agricultural well-being in the aggregate. One of these measures was parity prices with the pre-war price relationships as the starting point. The second was the per-capita purchasing power of net income from agricultural production (exclusive of such additional income as farmers may have from other sources). The third was the farmer's per-capita share of the national income. For 1934, largely by coincidence, each of these measures indicated roughly that the economic welfare of agriculture as a whole was about 20 percent below that which prevailed in the 5 years before the World War.

The basic criticism of the "price parity" measure of the agricultural situation is that it does not take into account the changing volume of production, sales, costs of production, and the number of persons on farms.

The basic criticism (aside from the question of the adequacy of the data) of the "purchasing power of net income" measure is that it indicates the progress that agriculture makes from year to year in terms of its own standard of living and not in terms of the rate of progress of the rest of the country. Thus, during the period 1922-29, agriculture as a whole apparently had a per-capita purchasing power equal to that of the pre-war years, while the standard of living of the rest of the country had advanced about 25 percent above that level; so that the agricultural depression of those years was largely a relative matter, in the sense that agriculture failed to keep pace with industrial progress.

The third measure of the agricultural situation, "the per-capita share of the national income", partly meets this requirement of relative rates of progress but may be criticized on the ground that it does not take into account the differences in living costs on the farm and in cities. In other words, the comparable per-capita incomes of agriculture and the total population should be made to show the amount of goods and services that each could get in exchange.

We present below a modification of that third measure. It may be defined rather cumbrously as the ratio of purchasing power (or exchange value) of net farm income per person on farms to the per-capita purchasing power of the income of the rest of the population. The relative per-capita purchasing power per person not on farms we may consider as the measure of income parity for agriculture, just as the index of prices paid by farmers has been used as a measure of price parity. And the ratio of agricultural per-capita purchasing power to this income parity standard may be used as a measure of the progress agriculture makes from season to season in keeping pace with the living standards of the rest of the population. This comparison might also be made on the basis of the working population in each group instead of the total population, but this would call for an analysis of available occupational statistics that are not strictly comparable.

The data used in the following tables and charts are essentially the same as those used in the article on Increasing the Farmers' Share of the National Income in the February 1935 issue of THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION. There have been no recent changes in the method of estimating farm income from production, no new comprehensive knowledge as to farm income from sources other than production, and no essentially new basic data on the long-time changes in the income of persons not on farms. Even though they are subject to qualifications and may have to be partly modified when better data are available, the present available data are useful in obtaining a first broad approximation as to the level of "income parity", the present agricultural income "disparity", and what additional farm income is required to promote a progressive balance between agricultural and urban living standards.

For 1935, the \$8,110,000,000 of gross income (shown in table 1) becomes \$7,630,000,000 if we exclude benefit payments; it becomes \$5,214,000,000 after deducting \$2,416,000,000 for selected production expenditures (including taxes and interest, but not wages to hired labor); and this "net income" is equal to \$159 for each of the 32,779,000 persons estimated as living on farms in 1935. This money income per person available for farm-home living costs is 94 percent of the income per person available in the pre-war years, and with farm-living costs at 124 percent of the 1910-14 level, it has a command over goods equal to 76 percent of its exchange value in 1910-14. Benefit payments paid or to be paid raise that relative purchasing power to 83 percent. (See chart I which is derived from charts II and III.)

In order to bring the 1935 total net farm income to a level that would have restored the farmers' pre-war purchasing power, the \$5,214,000,000 would have had to be raised by about 32 percent (76 to 100) or nearly \$1,670,000,000. Benefit payments to be paid on the 1935 production were scheduled at \$480,000,000.



CHART I.

TABLE 1.—FARM INCOME AND PURCHASING POWER

	Gross income ¹	Selected expenditures ²	Gross income less expenditures ³	Farm population ⁴	Gross income less expenditures per capita ⁵		Index of prices paid by farmers for family maintenance, 1910-14=100 ⁶	Purchasing power of income less expenditures 1910-14=100 ⁷
					Amount	1910-14=100		
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Thousands	Dollars			
1910-----	6,643	1,171	5,472	32,077	171	101.3	98	103.4
1911-----	6,372	1,289	5,083	32,110	158	93.6	100	93.6
1912-----	6,784	1,286	5,498	32,120	171	101.3	101	100.3
1913-----	6,975	1,461	5,514	32,120	172	101.9	100	101.9
1914-----	7,028	1,516	5,512	32,100	172	101.9	102	99.9
1915-----	7,395	1,609	5,786	32,050	181	107.2	107	100.2
1916-----	8,914	1,966	6,948	31,990	217	128.6	124	103.7
1917-----	12,832	2,520	10,312	31,930	323	191.4	147	130.2
1918-----	15,101	2,966	12,135	31,820	381	225.7	177	127.5
1919-----	16,935	3,424	13,511	31,730	426	252.4	210	120.2
1920-----	13,566	3,734	9,832	31,614	311	184.2	222	83.0
1921-----	8,927	3,041	5,886	31,703	186	110.2	161	68.4
1922-----	9,944	3,035	6,909	31,768	217	128.6	156	82.4
1923-----	11,041	3,182	7,859	31,290	251	148.7	160	92.9
1924-----	11,337	3,105	8,232	31,056	265	157.0	159	98.7
1925-----	11,968	3,408	8,560	31,064	276	163.5	164	99.7
1926-----	11,480	3,451	8,029	30,784	261	154.6	162	95.4
1927-----	11,616	3,426	8,190	30,281	270	160.0	159	100.6
1928-----	11,741	3,709	8,032	30,275	265	157.0	160	98.1
1929-----	11,941	3,893	8,048	30,257	266	157.6	158	99.7
1930-----	9,454	3,379	6,075	30,169	201	119.1	148	80.5
1931-----	6,968	2,615	4,353	30,585	142	84.1	126	66.7
1932-----	5,337	2,158	3,179	31,241	102	60.4	108	55.9
1933-----	6,406	2,131	4,275	32,242	133	78.8	109	72.3
1934-----	7,265	2,239	5,026	32,509	155	91.8	122	75.2
1935-----	8,110	2,416	5,694	32,779	174	103.1	124	83.1
<i>Excluding benefits</i>								
1933-----	6,128	-----	3,997	-----	124	73.5	-----	67.4
1934-----	6,671	-----	4,432	-----	136	80.6	-----	66.1
1935-----	7,630	-----	5,214	-----	159	94.2	-----	76.0

¹ As estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.² As estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. These estimates cover production expenses property taxes, and mortgage interest. They do not include wages.³ Column (1) minus column (2).⁴ Jan. 1 estimates, based on census in census years; after 1920, Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates; between 1910-20, A. A. A. estimates.⁵ Column (3) divided by column (4).⁶ As estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.⁷ Column (5) divided by column (6).

For 1935, the total national income paid out almost wholly to individuals not on farms is estimated to have been \$49,800,000,000. (See table 2.) Distributed over a nonfarm population of 94,012,000, this total income becomes \$530 per capita, or 132.4 percent of the pre-war income per capita. Living costs in typical cities averaged 142.5 percent of the pre-war costs, giving the \$530 income a purchasing power of 92.9 percent of the pre-war average. (See chart III.)

This relative purchasing power per person not on farms may be taken as a measure of income parity for agriculture. We may now contrast this measure with the similar figures for the average person

FARM INCOME (LESS SELECTED EXPENDITURES*) PER CAPITA AND FARM LIVING COSTS, 1910-35

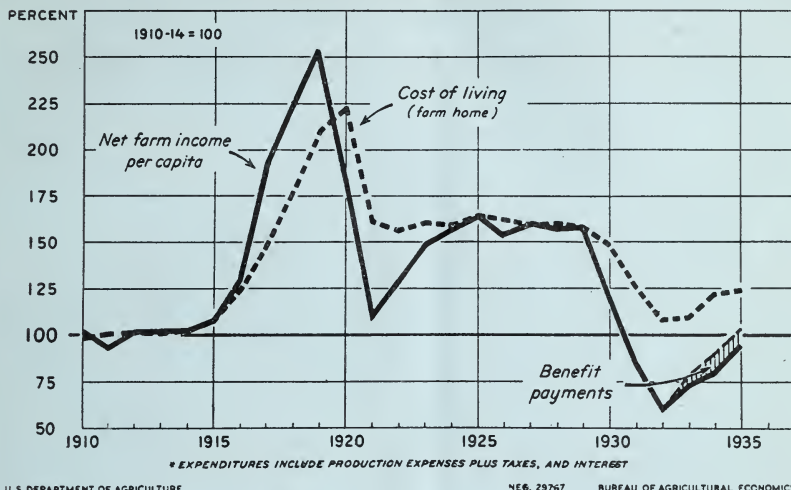


Chart II.

living on farms (which was 76 percent in 1935 without benefit payments, or 83 percent with benefit payments) and by dividing one by the other, obtain a single measure of the progress of the average person

NATIONAL INCOME (EXCLUDING AGRICULTURAL) PER CAPITA AND COST OF LIVING, 1910-35

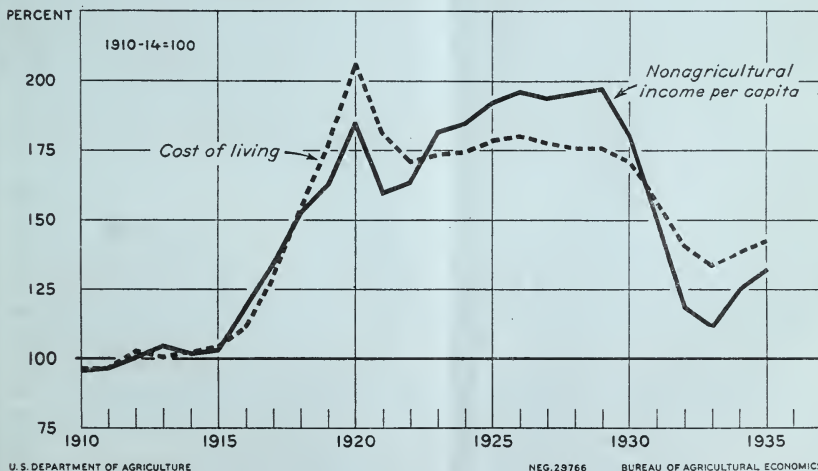


Chart III.

on farms in terms of "income parity." The annual changes in the relative purchasing power of each of these two broad groups of the total population are shown in chart I. Between 1910 and 1916 the

purchasing power of agricultural and of nonfarm population remained approximately in balance, deviating only slightly from the average of that period.

The war-time rise in prices of basic commodities gave farmers a sharp rise in purchasing power which was maintained for 3 years, 1917, 1918, and 1919. During that period the urban population in total failed to maintain the improvement shown for 1916.

TABLE 2.—NONFARM INCOME AND PURCHASING POWER

	National income excluding agriculture ¹	Nonfarm population ²	Income per capita ³		Urban cost of living, ⁴ 1910-14=100	Purchasing power per capita, ⁵ 1910-14=100
			Amount	1910-14=100		
	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Dollars</i>			
1910-----	22, 806	59, 402	384	95. 9	96. 9	99. 0
1911-----	23, 561	60, 865	387	96. 7	96. 9	99. 8
1912-----	25, 064	62, 269	403	100. 6	102. 9	97. 8
1913-----	26, 776	63, 685	420	104. 9	100. 9	104. 0
1914-----	26, 588	65, 120	408	101. 9	102. 3	99. 6
1915-----	27, 595	66, 586	414	103. 4	104. 4	99. 0
1916-----	32, 253	68, 060	474	118. 4	111. 7	106. 0
1917-----	37, 387	69, 536	538	134. 4	128. 7	104. 4
1918-----	43, 579	71, 060	613	153. 1	154. 0	99. 4
1919-----	47, 368	72, 566	653	163. 1	177. 0	92. 1
1920-----	54, 871	74, 097	741	185. 1	206. 4	89. 7
1921-----	48, 463	75, 672	650	159. 8	181. 2	88. 2
1922-----	50, 626	77, 272	655	163. 6	171. 0	97. 7
1923-----	57, 923	79, 415	729	182. 1	173. 8	104. 8
1924-----	60, 136	81, 314	740	184. 8	174. 5	105. 9
1925-----	63, 978	82, 971	771	192. 6	178. 8	107. 7
1926-----	66, 740	84, 916	786	196. 3	180. 3	108. 9
1927-----	67, 636	87, 083	777	194. 1	177. 5	109. 4
1928-----	69, 182	88, 754	779	195. 6	175. 2	111. 6
1929-----	71, 448	90, 437	790	197. 3	175. 2	112. 6
1930-----	66, 570	92, 190	722	180. 3	170. 8	105. 6
1931-----	56, 131	93, 045	603	150. 6	156. 1	96. 5
1932-----	44, 318	93, 270	475	118. 6	140. 3	84. 5
1933-----	41, 473	92, 955	446	111. 4	133. 5	83. 4
1934-----	46, 890	93, 619	501	125. 1	138. 2	90. 5
1935 ⁶ -----	49, 800	94, 012	530	132. 4	142. 5	92. 9

¹ Series published in AGRICULTURAL SITUATION (February 1935).

² Total population as estimated by Bureau of Census minus farm population; farm population estimated by A. A. A. between 1910-20 and by Bureau of Agricultural Economics after 1920.

³ Column 1 divided by column 2.

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

⁵ Column 3 divided by column 4.

⁶ Preliminary.

Practically all of the 3-year gain of farmers was wiped out during the 1920-23 seasons and during the years 1924-29 agricultural per-capita purchasing power remained a few percent below the pre-war agricultural level. During that same period the nonfarm population, after recovering from the 1921-22 depression, experienced a steady advance in purchasing power and living standards up to 1929, when their income gave them a purchasing power of about 13 percent greater than in the pre-war years.

By 1932, the per-capita agricultural purchasing power fell to 56 percent of its pre-war level and the nonfarm purchasing power fell to 84 percent. In 1935, the latter had risen to 93 percent and the agricultural figure to 76, or to 83 with benefit payments.

These two measures of relative purchasing power may now be converted into a single series to represent the progress made by agriculture from season to season in relation to the progress of the rest of the country. This single measure is obtained by dividing the index of relative agricultural purchasing power per capita by the relative nonfarm purchasing power per capita. The result is shown in table 3 and in the lower half of chart I.

TABLE 3.—RATIO OF PER-CAPITA PURCHASING POWER OF FARM INCOME TO PER-CAPITA PURCHASING POWER OF NONFARM INCOME ¹

[1910=14=100]

Year	Percent	Year	Percent
1910.....	104	1925.....	93
1911.....	94	1926.....	88
1912.....	103	1927.....	92
1913.....	98	1928.....	88
1914.....	100	1929.....	89
1915.....	101	1930.....	76
1916.....	98	1931.....	69
1917.....	125	1932.....	66
1918.....	128	1933.....	87
1919.....	131	1934.....	83
1920.....	93	1935 ²	90
1921.....	78	<i>Excluding benefit payments</i>	
1922.....	84	1933.....	81
1923.....	87	1934.....	73
1924.....	93	1935 ²	82

¹ Column 7 of table 1 divided by column 5 of table 2.

² Preliminary.

The temporary sharp advance in the position of agriculture in 1917-19 stands out as in the preceding illustration. The failure of farm income to keep pace with the rise in national income after 1924 shows up as a decline in the ratio from 93 in 1924 to 89 in 1929; the sharper agricultural decline during the depression shows as the ratio falls to 66 in 1932 and the improvement since then is revealed by a restoration of that ratio to 82 without benefit payments or to 90 with benefit payments.

To have restored the relative purchasing power of the farm population in 1935 to that of the nonfarm population would have called for an increase of about 22 percent (from a ratio of 82 to 100) in the 1935 net income of \$5,214,000,000, or about \$1,150,000,000. The benefit payments, scheduled to be paid, amounted to \$480,000,000.

It may be pointed out that the agricultural gains in relation to the gains of the rest of the population in the 3 years, 1917-19, were about completely offset by the relative losses and the failure to keep pace with industrial progress during the 7 years, 1920-26.

This suggests that some time in the future the relative losses sustained by agriculture during the years 1927-35 should be offset by gains over a prolonged period. These relative losses aggregate about 160 percent, which in terms of the pre-war net income of \$5,400,000,000 would mean about \$8,500,000,000. Agricultural purchasing power would thus have to exceed nonfarm purchasing power

by about 20 percent for a period of about 8 years to make up for the relative losses of 1927-35.

LOUIS H. BEAN,
Economic Adviser,
United States Department of Agriculture.

THE FARM MANAGEMENT SITUATION IN THE CORN BELT

The economic position of Corn Belt farmers was considerably improved at the beginning of 1936 as compared with recent years. Farm incomes in 1935 in 10 Corn Belt States, as indicated by receipts from the sale of principal farm products and from rental and benefit payments, were approximately 15 percent above those in 1934.

All Corn Belt States did not share equally in the percentage increase in income, but in each State except Nebraska, where there was a slight decrease, the increase in incomes in 1935 in comparison with 1934 exceeded 10 percent. In general, the increases in incomes were larger in the eastern and the Lake States in the Corn Belt than in the western part of the region.

In the eastern Corn Belt States, particularly in Ohio and Indiana, the reduction in crop production in 1934 was less severe than in other major meat-producing States. Farmers in those States were not forced to liquidate their livestock and have been in a better position to gain from the higher livestock prices of 1935, which were largely brought about by the drought. In the western Corn Belt States, with the exception of local areas, principally in Nebraska, which continued to be affected by drought, crop production was considerably larger than in 1934. Higher prices for livestock, however, contributed principally to higher incomes.

The improvement in net incomes on Corn Belt farms in 1935 was more pronounced and more significant than the increases in gross sales. Whereas gross receipts increased approximately 15 percent, such data as are available indicate that net cash income from operation increased approximately 30 percent over that of 1934.

With incomes that again approach normal, farmers have been able to make capital replacements and repairs and payments on delinquent taxes and interest. Farm-land transfers have been stimulated somewhat and higher prices have been reflected in higher land values. Although increases in the sale prices of land have been substantial in some instances, recent spurts in land values probably are not to be interpreted as early indications of a land boom in the Corn Belt.

With plentiful supplies of feed on most Corn Belt farms and the present favorable outlook for hog, cattle, and butter prices, continued improvement in farm incomes in 1936 seems likely. The outlook for farmers specializing in cattle feeding is perhaps less certain than for any other group. Farm operating costs in 1936 will probably be about the same or slightly lower than in 1935.

Corn Belt farmers are faced, however, with major immediate and long-time problems of management. One year of severe drought and 2 years of production control under the A. A. A. have brought about significant changes in crop acreages and livestock numbers. In the

12 North Central States the acreage of corn was approximately 14 percent less in 1935 than in 1929. On the other hand, the acreage of hay and pasture had increased about 4 percent during the same period. The acreage of oats and barley remained about the same as in 1929.

The reduction in hog production in the Corn Belt in 1935 as compared with 1930, either in numbers or percentages, was the largest on record. A further reduction in slaughter in the marketing year 1935-36 of from 5 to 10 percent as compared with 1934-35 is expected. Cattle numbers were reduced somewhat because of the feed shortage following the 1934 drought, but the total number of cattle on Corn Belt farms at the present time does not represent much change from the 1930 situation.

Judged from the standpoint of supply and price, and soil conservation, the reduction in corn acreage and hog production and the increase in acreage of hay and pasture have been necessary and desirable adjustments. It is estimated that to control erosion and maintain fertility of the land in the North Central States the acreage of corn should be reduced approximately 16 percent, of wheat about 20 percent, of oats and barley combined about 5 percent from the 1929 base, with an approximately corresponding increase in the acreage of hay and pasture. It is also estimated that if such adjustments in crop acreages were adopted as a long-time production program, the number of hogs produced annually in the North Central States would probably be 12.5 percent less than in 1930, and the number of cattle on farms would be increased 11 percent, with an increase of about 18 percent in milk production.

To maintain 1935 adjustments and to proceed toward a permanent production program designed to conserve and utilize most effectively the land and other agricultural resources in the Corn Belt present complex problems of internal organization and operation of the farms affected. On the whole, the program of adjustment means using land less intensively, and since most farmers will have no opportunity to farm more acres it will also mean using other productive resources less intensively.

From the standpoint of the physical operation of the farm, the adjustment program involves seeding and obtaining stands of soil building and high feeding value forage crops, and the use in feeding of more roughages and pasturage with smaller quantities of grain feeds. On some farms the new cropping systems may involve a shift in the type of livestock which will be given the principal emphasis. On others a new alinement in the present balance between grain and roughage consuming animals or a change in the rations so as to use larger proportions of roughages to concentrates may be adequate to meet the new situation.

Farmers may have more difficulty, however, in working out the details of a plan of operation that will immediately reduce operation costs commensurate to the reduction in volume of output. Fixed charges are so large a part of the costs of farm operation that it is only as productive equipment becomes worn out and has to be replaced that significant reductions can be advantageously made in operating costs.

Furthermore, the financing of new outlays incident to a shift from grain production to forage production, such as the expense of limestone

and grass seeds, presents a real problem to many farmers. In this same connection the necessity of waiting for a full realization of returns from new methods of production which are fully beneficial only in their long-time influences will prove a hardship to many farmers.

Granting that the long-time benefits of soil conservation and adjustment of total supplies to the income side of the Corn Belt farmer's business amply justify some sacrifice in the use of his productive resources, the problem remains of accomplishing the adjustments with a minimum of present disadvantage to the farmers making the adjustments.

C. W. CRICKMAN,
Division of Farm Management and Costs.

THE GRAIN MARKET SITUATION

The grain market situation at the beginning of 1936 differed materially from that of a year ago, with sharp reductions in wheat supplies and material increases in feed grains. These shifts in supplies have been reflected in higher prices for wheat this season and lower prices for other grains. As a result of the short spring-wheat crop and the reduced carry-over from last season's small harvest, the United States has been placed upon a net import basis for bread wheats for the first time in many years. On the other hand, increases in coarse-grain crops have provided ample feed supplies for the reduced livestock numbers and imports which were of sizable proportions last season have become almost negligible, and consist of small quantities of Argentine corn for the Pacific coast trade.

The wheat situation at the beginning of the new year was materially stronger than a year earlier. World stocks, substantially smaller, reflected the sharply reduced carry-over at the beginning of the season and the short crops in North America and the Southern Hemisphere. World carry-over stocks of old wheat at the beginning of the current season were about 300,000,000 bushels below a year ago and reflected a reduction of about that quantity in the 1934 world's wheat crop. The reduction in the carry-over was offset in very small part by increases in production this season. Total outturns in the principal producing areas, excluding Russia and China, were placed at only about 15,000,000 bushels more than the 1934-35 harvests. The 1935 wheat crop in the United States was about 100,000,000 bushels above the short 1934 outturn but the sharply reduced stocks carried over from the previous year brought total supplies for the current season to the lowest level since 1917. Supplies of spring bread wheats fell below domestic needs and during the period July through November more than 12,000,000 bushels, mostly of Canadian wheat, were imported for milling. At the first of January, farm stocks in the United States were only about 20,000,000 bushels larger than a year ago and totaled slightly less than 160,000,000 bushels. Of this quantity, about 43,000,000 bushels were hard red spring, 13,000,000 bushels durum, 40,000,000 bushels hard red winter, 50,000,000 bushels soft red winter, and the remainder of nearly 14,000,000 bushels white wheat. Market stocks at the first of January this season were about 12,000,000 bushels smaller than a year ago and amounted to around 78,500,000 bushels.

The Canadian wheat crop was slightly below the small 1934 harvest, and Canadian supplies available for export and carry-over on January 1, 1936, were around 20,000,000 bushels smaller than a year earlier but were still relatively large as a result of previous years' accumulations. Stocks of native wheat in Europe at the first of January were apparently somewhat smaller than a year earlier but substantial quantities were still available in important producing areas. Southern Hemisphere supplies, according to official estimates, including crops and carry-overs in Argentina and Australia, totaled around 322,000,000 bushels this season compared with 428,000,000 bushels a year ago. The quality of the Argentine crop is rather irregular, the early samples showing uneven test weights and some bleached grain. Recent reports from Australia show better quality than was indicated by earlier samples, with the test weight relatively high.

CHANGES IN LOCATION OF SURPLUS STOCKS CAUSE SHIFTS IN WORLD TRADE

Changes in location of surplus stocks this season have caused shifts in world trade. Importing countries have drawn supplies more largely from Canada and Australia following the fixing around the middle of December of the minimum wheat price in Argentina at the equivalent of 90 cents per bushel in United States currency. Prices of wheat in Argentina are now above an export basis and local mills are bidding more than the minimum price for current offerings. North American shipments in recent weeks have been nearly 50 percent larger than during the corresponding period last year. They reflect the increased takings of Canadian wheat by European countries. Russian shipments have averaged more than a million bushels weekly since the first of August, but world shipments this season, taken altogether, have been the smallest of any recent year and continue to be limited by the maintenance in importing countries of exceptionally high tariffs, the difficulty of procuring sufficient foreign exchange to finance purchases, and by milling regulations and other restrictions designed to stimulate use of domestic grain.

With the United States on an import basis for part of its bread-grain supply, the firmer situation abroad has been a strengthening influence in domestic cash wheat markets and prices of spring wheat have followed closely changes in the world wheat price. Winter-wheat markets have been influenced somewhat less by the world situation than those for spring wheats, but prices have held well above those of a year ago, being influenced by the firm spring wheat situation, which has in turn reflected the higher world prices. On January 22, No. 1 Dark Northern Spring wheat was quoted at Minneapolis at \$1.28-\$1.30 per bushel compared with \$1.10-\$1.11 a year earlier. Durum wheat, which is relatively more plentiful this season, was quoted at \$1.02-\$1.06 for ordinary protein types on January 22 as against \$1.20-\$1.23 a year ago when domestic supplies were below domestic milling needs and importation from Canada was necessary. No. 2 Hard Winter ordinary protein sold at Kansas City January 22 this season at \$1.10-\$1.12 compared with 99 cents-\$1 a year earlier, and No. 2 Soft Red Winter at St. Louis at \$1.08 compared with \$1 per bushel a year ago.

FEED-GRAIN SUPPLIES MORE ABUNDANT THAN LAST YEAR

Increases in grain crops to nearly twice the outturns of 1934, when harvests were cut sharply by drought, resulted in materially lower prices for corn, oats, and barley at the beginning of 1936 compared with a year ago. Reduced numbers of livestock as a result of last season's short feed supplies and the agricultural adjustment program tended to lower demand and contributed to the weaker market situation which developed during the latter part of 1935. With the beginning of the new year, however, the market for feed grains turned somewhat firmer, being influenced by relatively light marketings of corn and oats and some broadening in demand following the dull holiday and inventory period.

Farm and market stocks of corn at the first of January totaled about 1,351,000,000 bushels compared with only 854,000,000 bushels in these positions a year earlier. Domestic disappearance for the first quarter of the season (October through December) accounted for about 645,000,000 bushels compared with 582,000,000 bushels used during the corresponding months last year, but was only about three-fourths of the average disappearance during the 5-year period 1929-33. This season's relatively small utilization reflects the relatively light feeding requirements. The number of cattle on feed in the Corn Belt States at the 1st of January, although about 41 percent larger than the very small number on feed a year ago, was 25 to 35 percent below the 5-year average. No official figures are yet available as to the number of hogs on farms at the 1st of January, but pig-production figures indicate considerably fewer hogs on feed than a year ago.

Marketings of new corn this season have been restricted by poor conditions of the new crop. Colder weather at the beginning of the new year was favorable for drying out the grain, but this, together with snow, reduced country deliveries and increased inquiry from feeders and industries which were in the market following the holiday shut-down. The quality of this season's crop is unusually low because of high moisture. Only 7 percent of the inspections at the principal markets during December graded No. 3 or better, while 74 percent graded No. 5 or Sample.

G. A. COLLIER,
Hay, Feed, and Seed Division.

SITUATION FAIRLY FAVORABLE IN DAIRY MARKETS

In several respects, January dairy markets resemble those of last year. At that time, the butter price situation was such that some foreign supplies had arrived, and that is the case again this year. Furthermore, production was relatively light and stocks were low, and here again the January 1936 situation is somewhat similar to a year ago. The current year opened with wholesale butter prices slightly higher than those prevailing at the beginning of 1935, but since the first week of the month, prices have been about the same this year as last, and the trend has been the same, including a definite upward

tendency since the middle of the month. A final point of resemblance, insofar as butter is concerned, is that apparent consumption has fallen off, having been not only less in December than the preceding year, but less than the preceding month as well.

BUTTER PRODUCTION SOMEWHAT UNDER LAST YEAR

Reports from producing areas reveal considerable variation in production in different parts of the country. Estimated December butter production, for example, was 13.3 percent heavier than the previous year in Minnesota, and 7.7 percent heavier in Wisconsin, but in Iowa and Nebraska it was lower by 3.8 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively. Other States showing increases include the Dakotas, Michigan, Kentucky, Mississippi, Texas, Colorado, and Utah, as well as New York and Vermont in the Northeast. On the other hand, there were decreases in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and all States west of the Rockies except Utah. Total estimated production in December was 104,426,000 pounds, the net change as compared with the previous year being a decrease of 1.4 percent.

The reports of butter production during the year 1935 reveal that in all months except May, June, and July, there were decreases under the corresponding months of 1934, making for a total net reduction during the year of 61,000,000 pounds, or 3.6 percent, under 1934. Current weekly reports on butter production since January 1 indicate that the relationship to a year ago is still a decrease, although not so great as in November and December. The recent severe cold weather is expected to have a retarding effect on the milk flow, and delayed deliveries of cream due to storms and interrupted transportation may result in a falling off of quality.

MORE CHEESE AND OTHER PRODUCTS

What has been said regarding butter production does not apply to other manufactured dairy products. Estimated cheese production in December was 28 percent above that of December 1934, following the same tendency toward increases which in the case of this product had prevailed since June. Wisconsin production was unusually heavy during the last half of 1935, and the calendar year increase over 1934 in that State alone amounted to approximately 20,000,000 pounds. The total annual increase for all States was only 12,500,000 pounds, there having been decreases in New York, the Mountain States, and other important sections, although in some of these areas there were increases over 1934 during the latter months of 1935. Condensed and evaporated milk production in 1935 was about 9 percent greater than the previous year, with production trends quite irregular after the close of flush production in midsummer.

SOME BUTTER BEING IMPORTED

Of unusual interest just now is the fact that arrivals of foreign butter have supplemented domestic supplies this month. These arrivals include approximately 300,000 pounds from Argentina, and a similar total amount from the following European countries: Latvia, Esthonia, Siberia, and Holland. A small shipment of Cuban butter also arrived. A shipment of around 40,000 boxes (2,240,000 pounds) direct from New Zealand is due before the close of the month, part of which, however, may go on to London, depending upon com-

parative prices at New York and London at time of arrival. The last London report, dated January 24, quoted New Zealand butter there at the equivalent of 20.4 cents per pound, while the New York price on 92 score is now (Jan. 24) 35 cents per pound, a difference slightly greater than the 14-cent import duty.

Domestic prices of butter began an upward trend about the middle of January, since which time they have followed along at about the same level as last year. Although there is nothing pointing one way or another to the possibility of last year's price performance being repeated, it is of interest to note that what did happen in 1935 was a steady climb up to the first week in February, after which the market broke sharply, dropping more than 8 cents per pound by the middle of March, then recovering just as sharply before the middle of April, with a final break after that which extended into June. During this period the net decline was 15 cents per pound. Heaviest imports of butter occurred during February, March, and April, although the active movement did not cease until July. Imports during the first 6 months of 1935 amounted to 21,500,000 pounds.

FIRM MILK MARKET — CHEESE PRICES OFF

Cheese prices, which over a period of many months have been relatively high, particularly in relation to butter, dropped in January to a relationship which at the moment makes cheese a less favorable outlet than it has been. In the meantime, cheese production was heavy, and in spite of substantial increases in consumption, cheese stocks are very heavy—lower than last year, to be sure, but 20 percent above the average of the last 5 years. Fluid milk price advances occurred this month in several scattered markets, as was the case also in December, and on the whole, fluid milk markets appear to be firm. Net prices to producers supplying markets where milk is bought on a classified or use basis, have been higher as the result of reduced surpluses and the higher prices paid for surplus milk. Milk receipts at the three major eastern markets, New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, were 5 percent heavier in December than the year previous, which is some evidence of increased consumption in those cities.

STORAGE STOCKS LIGHTER THAN LAST YEAR

On the supply side of the picture, stocks of dairy products as a whole were much lighter on January 1 than a year ago. Butter in storage amounted to 40,169,000 pounds, a reduction of 7,000,000 pounds under last year, and American cheese stocks of 86,460,000 pounds were 3,400,000 pounds lighter. Evaporated milk held by manufacturers on the same date totaled but 72,916,000 pounds, as compared with 156,793,000 pounds on January 1, 1935. Stocks of this class of goods were the lightest for that date since 1927, and in view of the record total of 358,780,000 pounds last fall on September 1, this evidences a very active trade movement since that time. On a combined milk equivalent basis, January 1 stocks of the principal manufactured dairy products were 14 percent below last year, and 16 percent below the 5-year average.

BUTTER CONSUMPTION DISAPPOINTING

As already indicated, butter consumption has been at a rate which is disappointing to butter interests. Total trade output in December

was 2.5 percent below December 1934, and there was a 1935 calendar year decrease of 5.5 percent under 1934 which represented about 90,000,000 pounds. Cheese consumption, as indicated by trade output, was 5 percent greater in 1935 than the previous year, and evaporated milk was 11 percent greater. Again, figured on a milk equivalent basis, apparent consumption of manufactured dairy products during the year was 2.6 percent less than in 1934.

L. M. DAVIS,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products.

SUMMARY OF DAIRY STATISTICS

[Millions of pounds; 000,000 omitted]

PRODUCTION

Product	December			January to December, inclusive		
	1935	1934	Percent change	1935	1934	Percent change
Creamery butter-----	104	106	-1.4	1,634	1,695	-3.6
Cheese-----	39	30	+27.5	597	579	+3.0
Condensed milk-----	21	15	+43.4	248	226	+9.7
Evaporated milk ¹ -----	103	94	+9.5	1,868	1,712	+9.1
Total milk equivalent..	2,854	2,768	+3.1	44,929	45,643	-1.6

APPARENT CONSUMPTION

[Including production, changes in stocks, and net imports or exports]

Creamery butter-----	136	140	-2.5	1,662	1,759	-5.5
Cheese-----	47	42	+13.1	647	615	+5.2
Condensed milk-----	24	17	+47.1	250	219	+14.4
Evaporated milk ¹ -----	119	138	-13.8	1,920	1,727	+11.1
Total milk equivalent..	3,652	3,695	-1.2	46,158	47,364	-2.6

¹ Case goods only.

MORE EGGS AND LOWER PRICES

The strength shown by the egg markets during the closing weeks of 1935 did not carry very far into the new year. Following a moderation of the frigid temperatures that covered most of the country in late December, fresh egg production again resumed an upward trend in early January. Receipts at the larger terminal markets for the first 3 weeks of 1936 increased substantially over those of the same period last year. Demand from retail distributors did not keep pace with the heavier supplies, so that prices began to ease off as distributors were forced to offer liberal concessions to promote a heavier volume of trading. Apparently, the lower prices brought more buying into the market, for the trade output in the four cities of New York, Chicago, Boston, and Philadelphia, in late January began to exceed that of the same period a year earlier, whereas during the first part of the month it was less.

JANUARY PRICE TREND USUALLY DOWNWARD

Sharp, and sometimes rather sudden, changes in egg prices during January are not at all unusual. Normally, the seasonal trend is downward during this month, but much depends upon weather conditions. Usually at this season of the year, storage stocks are pretty well used up, and the trade is rapidly changing over to fresh eggs, supplies of which are increasing. As long as weather conditions remain moderately mild so as not to check production, prices are likely to show a steady decline, but any protracted period of unusually cold weather or heavy snows which will check production will cause a sharp rise in prices for the time being. Such advances, however, are usually of only short duration, for just as soon as laying flocks become adjusted to the new conditions, or the weather moderates, supplies again start to increase and prices resume their downward trend.

Prices in January this year followed a declining pattern until late in the month when below zero temperatures, accompanied by heavy snows, covered most of the Middle West and the northern Atlantic seaboard. These conditions slowed up receipts at the leading terminal markets, and prices advanced 1 to 3 cents per dozen at most points. How long these advances will be maintained will depend entirely upon the weather, for with an increase as of January 1, 1936, over a year earlier, of around 3 percent in the number of layers in farm flocks, and with feed supplies more liberal and prices much lower, the present situation is favorable, under normal conditions, for a sharp increase in the receipts of fresh eggs at both primary and terminal marketing points during late January and February over the same period last year.

STORAGE HANDLERS DID NOT FARE VERY WELL

The 1935 cold storage egg deal is coming to a close with very unsatisfactory results for those who stored eggs. Prices on Refrigerator Standards at New York declined from 23 cents on January 1, to 19 cents on the 17th, after which time some recovery was made on account of cold weather slowing up receipts of fresh eggs from the Middle West and nearby eastern producing areas. During the corresponding period last year, prices on the same grade of eggs advanced from 25 cents to 26½ cents, and then made a further advance to 30½ cents on January 24 when quotations were discontinued. At the present time (January 24) prices on refrigerator eggs are about 7½ cents lower than on the same date last year. The fact that money was lost on the 1935 storage egg deal is likely to have an unfavorable bearing upon the demand for eggs to be stored when the 1936 storing season begins, unless in the meantime there is a marked change in fundamental conditions, which does not at all seem likely at the present moment.

ABOUT AVERAGE STOCK OF EGGS IN STORAGE

Stocks of shell eggs in storage on January 1, 1936, amounted to 955,000 cases, about 50 percent larger than the stocks of the same date last year, but fractionally less than the 5-year average. Stocks of frozen eggs amounted to 69,490,000 pounds, about 5,000,000 pounds larger than on January 1, last year, and slightly over one-half million pounds larger than the 5-year average.

B. H. BENNETT,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products.

PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS

Estimates of average prices received by producers at local farm markets based on reports to the division of crop and livestock estimates of this Bureau. Average of reports covering the United States weighted according to relative importance of district and States.

Product	5-year average, August 1909-July 1914	January average, 1910-14	January 1935	December 1935	January 1936	Parity price, January 1936
Cotton, per pound.....cents..	12.4	12.2	12.3	11.4	11.1	15.6
Corn, per bushel.....do.....	64.2	58.9	85.3	53.0	53.5	80.9
Wheat, per bushel.....do.....	88.4	88.4	89.3	90.1	93.0	111.4
Hay, per ton.....dollars.....	11.87	11.87	14.02	7.20	7.32	14.96
Potatoes, per bushel.....cents..	69.7	64.2	46.1	64.2	65.9	86.5
Oats, per bushel.....do.....	39.9	39.0	54.6	25.5	25.9	50.3
Beef cattle, per 100 pounds.dollars..	5.21	5.04	5.06	6.14	6.22	6.56
Hogs, per 100 pounds.....do.....	7.22	7.03	6.87	8.72	8.91	9.10
Chickens, per pound.....cents..	11.4	10.8	12.4	16.0	16.5	14.4
Eggs, per dozen.....do.....	21.5	28.0	25.0	28.7	22.8	33.9
Butter, per pound.....do.....	25.5	27.8	27.4	29.8	29.7	33.6
Butterfat, per pound.....do.....	26.3	29.2	30.5	33.0	33.5	34.9
Wool, per pound.....do.....	17.6	18.5	18.8	23.3	24.1	22.2
Veal calves, per 100 pounds.dollars..	6.75	6.78	5.84	7.86	8.15	8.50
Lambs, per 100 pounds.....do.....	5.87	5.79	6.21	8.15	8.25	7.40
Horses, each.....do.....	136.60	133.70	77.60	90.60	92.70	172.10

¹ Adjusted for seasonality.

COLD-STORAGE SITUATION

[Jan. 1 holdings, shows nearest millions; i. e., 000,000 omitted]

Commodity	5-year average, 1930-34	Year ago	Month ago	January 1936
Apples.....total barrels..	¹ 8,831	¹ 8,890	¹ 11,018	¹ 9,607
Frozen and preserved fruits.....pounds..	73	63	83	79
40-percent cream.....40-quart cans..	¹ 134	¹ 60	¹ 134	¹ 95
Creamery butter.....pounds.....	54	47	72	40
American cheese.....do.....	71	90	93	86
Frozen eggs.....do.....	69	65	79	69
Shell eggs.....cases.....	¹ 981	¹ 684	¹ 2,738	¹ 955
Total poultry.....pounds.....	118	132	86	107
Total beef.....do.....	78	141	91	106
Total pork.....do.....	579	688	253	324
Lard.....do.....	79	118	38	52
Lamb and mutton, frozen.....do.....	4	5	3	3
Total meats.....do.....	737	959	410	507

¹ 3 ciphers omitted.

CASH INCOME FROM THE SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS AND RENTAL AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS TO FARMERS

CASH INCOME FROM SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS

	Grains	Cotton and cotton-seed	Fruits and vegetables	All crops	Meat animals	Dairy products	Poultry and eggs	All live-stock and products	Total crops and live-stock
	<i>Mil-lion dollars</i>	<i>Mil-lion dollars</i>	<i>Mil-lion dollars</i>	<i>Mil-lion dollars</i>	<i>Mil-lion dollars</i>	<i>Mil-lion dollars</i>	<i>Mil-lion dollars</i>	<i>Mil-lion dollars</i>	<i>Mil-lion dollars</i>
1934									
December.....	39	79	56	219	108	90	51	254	473
1935									
January.....	27	44	59	189	125	99	36	261	450
February.....	26	34	65	157	109	98	38	245	402
March.....	28	30	75	159	122	102	45	270	429
April.....	37	18	92	173	124	111	59	295	468
May.....	40	15	83	160	130	123	66	323	483
June.....	34	12	70	133	116	122	54	305	438
July.....	45	11	75	152	119	113	44	299	451
August.....	95	27	70	260	139	102	36	287	547
September.....	94	109	70	356	136	98	41	282	638
October.....	79	182	110	484	169	95	44	312	796
November.....	54	146	73	349	154	89	64	311	660
December.....	41	94	69	270	164	97	65	328	598
1932.....	17	47	39	141	68	72	51	194	335
1933.....	34	75	59	211	77	80	39	202	413
1934.....	39	79	56	219	108	90	51	254	473
1935.....	41	94	69	270	164	97	65	328	598

BENEFIT, RENTAL, AND DROUGHT-RELIEF PAYMENTS TO FARMERS NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

	Cotton	Tobacco	Wheat	Sugar beets	Cattle and sheep ¹	Corn-hog	Rice	Total ²
	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Million dollars</i>
1934								
June.....	19	3	1	-----	1	5	-----	29
July.....	8	1	1	-----	10	10	-----	30
August.....	6	1	1	-----	26	38	-----	72
September.....	2	-----	2	-----	25	47	-----	76
October.....	12	-----	36	-----	28	28	-----	104
November.....	24	2	25	-----	14	8	-----	73
December.....	12	1	12	-----	6	22	-----	53
1935								
January.....	18	2	6	-----	7	37	-----	70
February.....	10	3	5	3	3	28	-----	52
March.....	5	7	4	3	1	30	-----	50
April.....	2	2	1	4	-----	40	-----	49
May.....	17	3	3	3	-----	10	-----	36
June.....	15	5	1	3	-----	6	-----	30
July.....	4	1	1	1	-----	11	-----	19
August.....	4	1	12	1	-----	24	2	44
September.....	6	4	23	-----	-----	22	2	57
October.....	18	2	19	4	-----	18	1	62
November.....	13	2	28	11	-----	9	1	³ 65
December.....	31	1	5	3	-----	3	3	³ 47

¹ Purchased under drought-relief program.

² Total of all benefit, rental, and drought-relief payments made during month may not check exactly with sum of payments on individual program.

³ Includes \$1,000,000 to peanut growers in November and December.

NEW AGRICULTURAL LOANS, DISCOUNTS, AND INVESTMENTS ¹

[Thousands of dollars]

Year and month	Federal land banks	Land bank commissioner loans to farmers	Federal intermediate credit bank loans to—		Regional agricultural credit corporations	Production credit associations	Emergency crop loans	Agricultural Marketing Act revolving fund	Banks for co-operatives, including central banks
			Regional and production credit ²	All other institutions ³					
1933-----	151, 634	70, 812	109, 746	168, 927	223, 116	27	57, 376	40, 687	27, 144
1934									
Jan-----	77, 843	49, 795	12, 886	14, 155	21, 679	134	-----	253	786
Feb-----	86, 179	54, 120	11, 570	7, 276	18, 745	515	-----	259	1, 140
Mar-----	89, 346	63, 838	22, 141	10, 052	17, 324	3, 766	611	271	1, 323
Apr-----	25, 362	21, 271	25, 952	12, 054	13, 120	10, 110	18, 118	67	1, 594
May-----	68, 078	53, 203	28, 072	13, 129	11, 213	14, 112	8, 765	360	2, 584
June-----	86, 154	67, 770	19, 582	14, 862	8, 098	11, 296	1, 072	1, 289	1, 880
July-----	65, 056	51, 956	18, 852	12, 338	6, 752	13, 022	2, 272	2, 302	13, 682
Aug-----	60, 261	48, 619	17, 390	11, 257	7, 685	12, 402	2, 458	247	4, 049
Sept-----	48, 343	39, 208	16, 839	11, 542	5, 676	11, 115	2, 323	516	1, 517
Oct-----	43, 396	36, 371	14, 614	30, 144	7, 864	11, 158	1, 015	3, 606	3, 719
Nov-----	44, 044	36, 348	16, 012	23, 014	8, 219	10, 360	101	271	3, 103
Dec-----	36, 305	30, 637	19, 686	22, 493	14, 214	12, 170	1, 157	115	4, 694
1935									
Jan-----	34, 471	27, 924	24, 585	16, 966	15, 209	14, 011	-----	117	2, 755
Feb-----	27, 945	22, 842	23, 527	14, 982	12, 411	15, 393	-----	66	3, 574
Mar-----	27, 039	23, 354	27, 927	15, 189	10, 136	23, 538	-----	376	2, 556
Apr-----	7, 499	11, 479	21, 429	11, 771	10, 871	20, 504	20, 048	502	4, 431
May-----	30, 176	20, 768	19, 868	20, 203	7, 817	17, 311	29, 226	1	4, 044
June-----	25, 240	18, 854	17, 666	12, 347	5, 934	15, 494	2, 950	5, 033	2, 661
July-----	14, 050	10, 869	15, 330	12, 298	4, 667	14, 406	1, 436	452	3, 095
Aug-----	18, 832	13, 086	12, 899	9, 861	4, 074	11, 827	1, 993	5	8, 411
Sept-----	17, 150	12, 348	18, 895	8, 936	3, 397	14, 719	1, 626	320	14, 008
Oct-----	18, 380	13, 764	21, 510	11, 542	4, 477	20, 222	734	413	8, 580
Nov-----	14, 038	10, 317	22, 414	14, 225	5, 807	20, 845	155	112	6, 920
Dec-----	13, 852	10, 793	25, 195	13, 099	5, 856	22, 400	268	1	5, 313

¹ Data from Farm Credit Administration.² Regional agricultural credit corporations and production credit associations. Some of the loans made by the regional agricultural credit corporations and all of the loans made by the production credit associations are rediscounted with the Federal intermediate credit banks. The amounts in this column are thus included in the columns headed "Production Credit Associations" and "Regional Agricultural Credit Corporations."³ Includes agricultural credit associations, livestock loan companies, and commercial banks.

DAVID L. WICKENS,
Division of Agricultural Finance.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND WAGES

[1910-14=100]

Year and month	Wholesale prices of all commodities ¹	Industrial wages ²	Prices paid by farmers for commodities used in ³ —			Farm wages	Taxes ⁴
			Living	Production	Living production		
1910-----	103	-----	98	98	98	97	-----
1911-----	95	-----	100	103	101	97	-----
1912-----	101	-----	101	98	100	101	-----
1913-----	102	-----	100	102	101	104	100
1914-----	99	-----	102	99	100	101	101
1915-----	102	101	107	104	105	102	110
1916-----	125	114	124	124	124	112	116
1917-----	172	129	147	151	149	140	129
1918-----	192	160	177	174	176	176	137
1919-----	202	185	210	192	202	206	172
1920-----	225	222	222	174	201	239	209
1921-----	142	203	161	141	152	150	223
1922-----	141	197	156	139	149	146	224
1923-----	147	214	160	141	152	166	228
1924-----	143	218	159	143	152	166	228
1925-----	151	223	164	147	157	168	232
1926-----	146	229	162	146	155	171	232
1927-----	139	231	159	145	153	170	238
1928-----	141	232	160	148	155	169	239
1929-----	139	236	158	147	153	170	241
1930-----	126	226	148	140	145	152	238
1931-----	107	207	126	122	124	116	218
1932-----	95	178	108	107	107	86	189
1933-----	96	171	109	108	109	80	162
1934-----	109	182	122	125	123	90	154
1935-----	117	191	124	126	125	98	-----
1934							
December-----	112	185	122	131	126	-----	-----
1935							
January-----	115	188	-----	-----	126	86	-----
February-----	116	189	-----	-----	127	-----	-----
March-----	116	193	124	131	127	-----	-----
April-----	117	191	-----	-----	127	94	-----
May-----	117	189	-----	-----	127	-----	-----
June-----	116	189	124	130	127	-----	-----
July-----	116	188	-----	-----	126	99	-----
August-----	118	192	-----	-----	125	-----	-----
September-----	118	195	124	122	123	-----	-----
October-----	118	194	-----	-----	123	102	-----
November-----	118	190	-----	-----	122	-----	-----
December-----	118	196	124	119	122	-----	-----

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics Index with 1926=100, divided by its 1910-14 average of 68.5.² Average weekly earnings, New York State factories. June 1914=100.³ These indexes are based on retail prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production reported quarterly for March, June, September, and December. The indexes for other months are straight interpolations between the successive quarterly indexes.⁴ Index of farm real estate taxes, per acre, 1913=100.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PAID

Year and month	Index numbers of farm prices [August 1909-July 1914=100]								Prices paid by farmers for commodities bought ¹	Ratio of prices received to prices paid
	Grains	Cotton and cottonseed	Fruits	Truck crops	Meat animals	Dairy products	Chickens and eggs	All groups		
1910.....	104	113	101	-----	103	99	104	102	98	104
1911.....	96	101	102	-----	87	95	91	95	101	94
1912.....	106	87	94	-----	95	102	100	100	100	100
1913.....	92	97	107	-----	108	105	101	101	101	100
1914.....	102	85	91	-----	112	102	106	101	100	101
1915.....	120	77	82	-----	104	103	101	98	105	93
1916.....	126	119	100	-----	120	109	116	118	124	95
1917.....	217	187	118	-----	174	135	155	175	149	117
1918.....	227	245	172	-----	203	163	186	202	176	115
1919.....	233	247	178	-----	207	186	209	213	202	105
1920.....	232	248	191	-----	174	198	223	211	201	105
1921.....	112	101	157	-----	109	156	162	125	152	82
1922.....	106	156	174	-----	114	143	141	132	149	89
1923.....	113	216	137	-----	107	159	146	142	152	93
1924.....	129	212	125	150	110	149	149	143	152	94
1925.....	157	177	172	153	140	153	163	156	157	99
1926.....	131	122	138	143	147	152	159	145	155	94
1927.....	128	128	144	121	140	155	144	139	153	91
1928.....	130	152	176	159	151	158	153	149	155	96
1929.....	120	144	141	149	156	157	162	146	153	95
1930.....	100	102	162	140	133	137	129	126	145	87
1931.....	63	63	98	117	92	108	100	87	124	70
1932.....	44	47	82	102	63	83	82	65	107	61
1933.....	62	64	74	105	60	82	75	70	109	64
1934.....	93	99	100	104	68	95	89	90	123	73
1935.....	103	101	91	127	118	108	117	108	125	86
1935										
January.....	115	108	87	117	96	112	114	107	126	85
February.....	114	108	90	188	105	121	119	111	127	87
March.....	111	102	90	162	117	114	97	108	127	85
April.....	115	103	105	156	117	117	105	111	127	87
May.....	112	105	98	127	118	107	110	108	127	85
June.....	102	103	100	96	119	99	108	104	127	82
July.....	96	102	98	93	116	96	107	102	126	81
August.....	96	97	87	92	129	98	111	106	125	85
September.....	97	90	82	101	131	102	126	107	123	87
October.....	101	94	82	120	125	104	132	109	123	89
November.....	90	99	83	136	117	111	140	108	122	89
December.....	89	98	92	136	120	118	135	110	122	90
1936										
January.....	92	95	89	118	122	120	117	109	² 122	² 89

¹ 1910-14=100.² Preliminary.

THE TREND OF EXPORT MOVEMENT

Compiled from the Department of Commerce reports by the Foreign Agricultural Service Division of this Bureau.

Year and month (ended Dec. 1)	Wheat, ¹ including flour	Tobacco (leaf)	Bacon, ² hams, and shoulders	Lard ³	Apples (fresh)	Cotton, ⁴ running bales
	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000 bales</i>
Total:						
1920-----	311, 601	467, 662	821, 922	612, 250	5, 393	6, 111
1921-----	359, 021	515, 353	647, 680	868, 942	5, 809	6, 385
1922-----	235, 307	430, 908	631, 452	766, 950	4, 945	6, 015
1923-----	175, 190	474, 500	828, 890	1, 035, 382	8, 876	5, 224
1924-----	241, 454	546, 555	637, 980	944, 095	10, 261	6, 653
1925-----	138, 784	468, 471	467, 459	688, 829	10, 043	8, 362
1926-----	193, 971	478, 773	351, 591	698, 961	16, 170	8, 916
1927-----	228, 576	506, 252	237, 720	681, 303	15, 534	9, 199
1928-----	151, 976	575, 408	248, 278	759, 722	13, 635	8, 546
1929-----	154, 348	555, 347	275, 118	829, 328	16, 856	7, 418
1930-----	149, 154	560, 958	216, 953	642, 486	15, 850	6, 474
1931-----	125, 686	503, 531	123, 246	568, 708	17, 785	6, 849
1932-----	82, 118	387, 766	84, 175	546, 202	16, 919	8, 916
1933-----	26, 611	420, 418	100, 169	579, 132	11, 029	8, 533
1934-----	36, 538	418, 983	83, 725	431, 237	10, 070	5, 753
1935-----	16, 015	381, 182	61, 691	96, 354	11, 707	5, 860
December:						
1920-----	30, 377	45, 391	83, 276	90, 080	1, 509	785
1921-----	15, 217	38, 772	36, 848	64, 542	569	635
1922-----	16, 728	36, 954	65, 642	78, 596	859	605
1923-----	13, 358	49, 269	76, 263	98, 578	962	834
1924-----	24, 616	44, 384	33, 788	76, 803	1, 073	1, 053
1925-----	8, 437	68, 378	40, 277	68, 840	2, 257	974
1926-----	15, 301	50, 379	23, 503	62, 680	2, 479	1, 504
1927-----	12, 197	47, 661	19, 839	62, 855	1, 351	745
1928-----	12, 053	67, 587	18, 886	86, 358	1, 993	1, 058
1929-----	12, 428	65, 660	17, 404	80, 053	1, 566	910
1930-----	6, 906	58, 435	10, 466	45, 114	3, 384	766
1931-----	12, 100	54, 413	6, 206	65, 598	1, 522	1, 183
1932-----	3, 549	28, 910	6, 347	49, 919	1, 144	1, 040
1933-----	5, 975	60, 783	6, 561	54, 838	1, 895	820
1934-----	1, 511	25, 652	4, 283	16, 170	998	505
1935:						
March----	1, 500	31, 062	5, 428	10, 636	945	318
April-----	1, 281	16, 760	5, 332	7, 193	397	323
May-----	1, 426	16, 661	7, 443	9, 740	44	278
June-----	1, 195	11, 867	6, 662	6, 877	17	345
July-----	1, 231	14, 581	6, 580	4, 915	99	280
August----	1, 278	22, 382	5, 210	3, 406	544	241
September--	1, 324	52, 371	3, 531	1, 515	1, 349	487
October----	1, 489	60, 068	3, 355	2, 731	2, 190	712
November---	1, 602	64, 117	4, 961	7, 932	1, 854	1, 135
December---	1, 132	38, 753	3, 923	7, 853	1, 497	886

¹ Wheat flour is converted on a basis of 4.7 bushels of grain equal to 1 barrel of flour.

² Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides. ³ Excludes neutral lard. ⁴ Excludes linters.

THE TREND OF AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS

Year (ended Dec. 31) and month	Cattle, live	Butter	Wheat, grain	Corn, grain	Oats, grain	Sugar, raw ¹	Wool, unmanufactured
	1,000 head	1,000 pounds	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 short tons	1,000 pounds
1920-----	379	37,454	35,809	7,784	6,728	4,033	259,618
1921-----	195	18,558	23,286	164	3,565	2,984	320,666
1922-----	238	6,957	22,642	113	1,299	4,861	376,673
1923-----	140	23,741	19,502	203	317	3,855	394,250
1924-----	145	19,405	15,534	4,107	6,964	4,138	268,213
1925-----	175	7,212	13,901	1,086	178	4,460	339,253
1926-----	221	8,029	14,143	1,055	157	4,710	310,266
1927-----	445	8,460	11,754	5,458	85	4,216	267,287
1928-----	563	4,659	18,848	565	489	3,869	244,553
1929-----	505	2,773	14,576	407	112	4,888	280,371
1930-----	234	2,472	19,968	1,556	183	3,495	163,734
1931-----	95	1,882	15,690	618	576	3,176	158,385
1932-----	106	1,014	10,026	344	59	2,971	56,535
1933-----	82	1,022	10,318	160	132	2,874	178,928
1934: ²							
January----	8	58	863	18	6	201	9,637
February----	7	59	734	15	2	132	12,628
March-----	9	45	1,145	17	(³)	196	16,975
April-----	16	55	960	11	4	243	13,567
May-----	6	69	1,005	14	1	326	7,458
June-----	5	74	899	77	7	221	8,003
July-----	4	74	721	24	152	61	7,632
August-----	1	95	1,452	195	27	102	7,046
September---	3	114	3,765	445	210	766	7,567
October-----	1	172	2,335	501	1,087	272	8,850
November---	2	189	2,262	470	1,672	185	4,964
December---	4	249	2,401	1,172	2,412	292	5,074
Total-----	66	1,253	18,542	2,959	5,580	2,997	109,401
1935: ²							
January----	6	539	1,906	1,887	1,644	536	8,583
February----	38	3,070	2,061	1,826	2,118	156	11,964
March-----	53	4,929	2,151	3,305	2,596	230	13,938
April-----	51	8,860	2,706	1,445	2,167	278	15,459
May-----	49	2,665	1,838	3,036	1,124	253	15,778
June-----	34	1,437	1,517	6,122	406	235	15,932
July-----	18	177	1,508	5,649	29	366	18,760
August-----	16	149	3,616	8,554	1	572	20,361
September---	14	122	4,342	2,986	7	131	21,952
October-----	32	108	6,583	4,690	4	92	23,498
November---	39	277	5,541	1,651	2	62	18,041
December---	27	341	5,102	2,092	8	44	18,467
Total-----	377	22,674	38,871	43,243	10,106	2,955	202,733

¹ Includes beet sugar. Tons of 2,000 pounds.² General imports prior to 1934; beginning Jan. 1, 1934, imports for consumption.³ Less than 500.

Foreign Agricultural Service Division. Compiled from Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States and official records of Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

Production, consumption, and movements	December 1934	November 1935 ¹	December 1935	November 1934 ¹
<i>Production</i>				
Pig iron, daily (thousand tons)----	33	69	68	32
Bituminous coal (million tons)----	33	33	35	31
Steel ingots (thousand long tons)--	1, 964	3, 153	3, 082	1, 611
<i>Consumption</i>				
Cotton, by mills (thousand bales)--	417	508	498	480
Unfilled orders, Steel Corporation shipments of finished steel products (thousand tons)-----	419	682	662	366
Building contracts in 37 Northeastern States (million dollars)--	93	188	264	112
Hogs slaughtered (thousands)-----	4, 197	2, 422	2, 875	4, 312
Cattle and calves slaughtered (thousands)-----	1, 243	1, 436	1, 373	1, 377
Sheep and lambs slaughtered (thousands)-----	1, 295	1, 407	1, 369	1, 329
<i>Movements</i>				
Bank debits (outside New York City) (billion dollars)-----	16	17	19	13
Carloadings (thousands)-----	2, 106	3, 179	2, 319	2, 843
Mail-order sales (million dollars)--	77	72	91	61
Employees, New York State factories (thousands)-----	352	381	378	351
Average price 25 industrial stocks (dollars)-----	141. 46	197. 63	190. 86	141. 62
Interest rate (4-6 months' paper, New York) (percent)-----	. 88	. 75	. 75	. 88
Retail food price index (Department of Labor) ² -----	122	133	134	123
Wholesale price index (Department of Labor) ² -----	112	118	118	112

¹ There were a number of errors in these data as published on p. 24 of the Jan. 1, 1936, issue. The correct figures are given herewith.

² 1910-14 basis.

Data in the above table, excepting livestock slaughter and price indexes, are from the Survey of Current Business, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce.